inter and mixed cropping in coconut holding.

Promoting Rural Education

1288. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote rural education;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up a council for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the National Policy on Education 1986, Government have recently established a National Council of Rural Institutes, one of the major objectives of which is to promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education. The Council was formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) on December 3, 1995.

Cost and Time Over-Run Per Project in the Steel Sector

1289. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the average cost over-run per project and the time over-run per project in the Steel Sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses Suffered by IDPL

1290. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) has been suffering losses since the past several years;

(b) if so, whether he has recently visited premises of IDPL and found some discrepancies in its functioning;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the concrete measures Government propose to take to save the IDPL?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers recently visited the formulation plant of IDPL at Gurgaon with a view to acquiring, primarily, knowledge about the work environment and problems in general of the workers/employees and the management.

(d) IDPL is currently implementing a revival package approved by the BIFR. The revival period is for 10 years and the plan envisages, inter-alia, higher production/sales, reduction in the manpower cost, business restructuring etc.

Establishment of IIM And IIT in Madhya Pradesh

1291. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to establish an Indian Institute of Management and Indian Institute of Technology in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has recently approved the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management at Indore (Madhya Pradesh). Necessary action for operationalising the Institute has already been initiated. There is no proposal to establish an Indian Institute of Technology in the country.

New Strategy for Fertilizer Industry

1292. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new strategy for fertilizer industry in the country particularly in the State of Punjab to benefit the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) It has been the policy of the Government to ensure availability of fertilisers at reasonable prices. Accordingly, urea, which constitutes the bulk of the consumption of fertilisers, has been retained under the statutory price, movement and distribution controls. The availability of urea is ensured as per the allocation made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and supplies to the farmers are made at a heavily subsidised price. In order to ensure that there is no shortage of urea, efforts are made to maximise the indigenous production and the gap between indigenous availability and demand, if any, is met by imports. For the current Rabi season, an allocation of 10.67 lakh metric tonnes has been made for the State of Punjab under the provisions of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 framed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

As regards the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, in order to cushion the impact of the increase in their prices after decontrol a special concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne of imported MOP and indigenous DAP and a proportionate concession on various complexes and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) have been extended for the fourth year in succession. The availability of decontrolled fertilisers has also been ameliorated by the measures taken to encourage the indigenous production of Phosphatic fertilisers and the decanalization of the imports of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers. The overall supply position of decontrolled fertilisers is quite comfortable throughout the country.

Progress of Campaign under Universalisation of Elementary Education

1293. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of campaign under the Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) and whether Distt. Primary Education Programme (DPEP) target under the 8th Plan has been achieved and if so, how many districts have been covered so far against a target of 100 districts;

(b) the progress made under the National Literacy Mission; and

(c) whether Government would consider enhancing the outlay for education in successive budgets as presently the overseas donations from voluntary agencies to Indian NGOS far exceed our budgetary allocations on primary education?